

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following rewritten paragraph:

--FIG. 5 is an end view of multi-well plate cover 1 and serves to illustrate the spring nature of multi-well plate cover 1. FIG. 6 is also an end view of multi-well plate cover 1 and depicts the displacement of side walls 7 of multi-well plate cover 1 in preparation for attachment to a multi-well plate (not shown in FIG. 6). FIG. 7 shows a continuation of the process of attaching multi-well plate cover 1 to a multi-well plate 5 (in phantom) in which multi-well plate cover 1 is vertically pressed in the direction shown by arrows 18 onto multi-well plate 5, causing the compression of uncompressed gasket 23 onto the upper surface of multi-well plate 5 while side walls 7 are outwardly extended. FIG. 8 shows a continuation of the process of attaching the multi-well plate cover 1 to multi-well plate 5 in which multi-well plate cover 1 having been placed in contact with the upper surface of multi-well plate 5 has side walls 7 released into their normal position in which multi-well plate holders or clamps 15 engage a skirt 20 of multi-well plate 5 by moving in the direction of arrows 22. The engagement of multi-well plate holders 15 with skirt 20 exerts a downward force on the ends of curvilinear section 19 to exert a compressive force on gasket 23.--